Hone your transactional legal skills and professional capabilities while enhancing the community – practice as a student attorney in the Business and Community Law Clinic at Wayne Law.

Who should apply? The BCLC is relevant to students interested in corporate, public interest, or government work, and those interested in equitable and entrepreneurial approaches to problem solving. Students must (1) have taken or are concurrently enrolled in Corporations and (2) demonstrate interest, through other coursework, activities and experience, in transactional law and public service.

What will I learn in the BCLC? Students’ learning in the BCLC culminates in the growth of their professional identity as unique transactional lawyers who have integrity, purpose and the know-how to use their skills to promote their client’s best interests, the public interest, and justice in communities.

• BCLC students learn the theory, skills and practice of transactional lawyering through supervised representation of qualifying organizational clients, while also learning how transactional law can contribute to organizations’ triple bottom line (profits, planet, and people/economy, environment, and equity).
• Students gain familiarity with the non-legal considerations and context, both local and beyond, for working with and counseling community-based businesses and organizations.
• Students obtain experience managing multiple projects, as well as skills for interacting with client representatives and collaborating with other professionals, service providers and experts to holistically address the needs of their organizational clients.

How is the course organized? Students assume primary responsibility for their client work in the BCLC, with a pre-semester one-day boot camp, seminar and regular supervision to support their work.

• In a pre-semester one-day boot camp, students quickly gain necessary information enabling them to jump into client work in the first week of the semester.
• In seminar, students meet twice weekly with faculty, classmates and, from time to time, guest speakers to discuss topics relevant to all students. Exercises, both real and simulated, and relevant readings will be assigned in advance of seminar meetings, to support discussion of seminar topics on transactional law theory, skills, and practice, context and professional ethics. Students also engage in moots and rounds to practice presentations and obtain feedback on work before external meetings.
• Students meet individually or in teams during faculty supervision meetings to discuss client work, as well as important lawyering issues and the progress of their professional development as a lawyer.

How is the clinic graded? The clinic’s six credits are graded on a letter grade basis. Each component of the clinic contributes to a student’s final grade. Seminar and boot-camp grades consider preparation and engagement in class discussions and exercises. Client work and supervision grades consider the quality of work product and outcomes, demonstrated professionalism and effort, and success in a student’s professional growth. Students are expected to devote a minimum of 20 hours each week to clinic, including both “billable” hours (client work, including supervision meetings) and “nonbillable” hours (seminar, simulations, etc.).

Where and when? Most class meetings will take place in the law school or on the university campus. From time to time, students will also need to travel off campus to clients’ and guest speakers’ offices, as well as community spaces for meetings and presentations. Students may have to meet evenings, weekends and holidays to accommodate clients’ schedules and deliver timely, high quality work product.

For more questions, please contact Professor Choike at anne.choike@wayne.edu or (313) 577-4015.